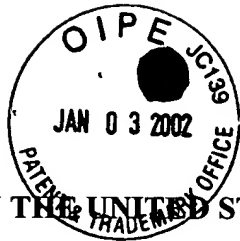


09/304,787



Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Carl J. EVANS et al.

Application No.: 09/304,787

Group Art Unit: 2683

Filed: May 4, 1999

Examiner: Sobutka, P.

Attorney Docket No.: 09710-1113

Client Docket No.: COS-98-009

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

RESTRICTION RESPONSE AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to election/restriction requirement in the Office Action of October 4, 2001, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I, claims 1-7, classified class 340, subclass 825.52. MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area as evidenced by the common class 340. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding election/restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

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